

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

B-  
Survey No. 4689

### 1. Name

Historic 1500-1526 North Durham Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1500-1526 North Durham Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

#### Category

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

#### Ownership

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

#### Public Acquisition

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☐ not applicable

#### Status

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress

#### Accessible

☒ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

#### Present Use

☐ agriculture ☐ museum  
☐ commercial ☐ park  
☐ educational ☒ private residence  
☐ entertainment ☐ religious  
☐ government ☐ scientific  
☐ industrial ☐ transportation  
☐ military ☐ other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check One

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check One

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
 date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of fourteen two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in 1891 by Isaac and Emanuel Ellinger, major real estate developers and builders of working class houses in East Baltimore. Although the cornices are old-fashioned by this date, the builders have given the houses more up-to-date Queen Anne-style decorative brick doorway hoods, showing the influence of a style that was regularly appearing in expensive Baltimore rowhousing by 1880. Only four of the houses retain their original brick facades, which have been painted, and evidence remains that their basements were originally painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses. Three have been covered with formstone, and the rest of the row with a scored, stucco-like material, possibly a precursor to formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, 11'4" wide (12 for the two end houses), and occupy lots 61' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. The basement area was painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding, decorated with a cut-work band, supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, connected by a lower molding strip decorated by a row of quarter-rounds, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of arched shapes suggestive of naturalistic forms (perhaps scallops), created with a jig saw.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels created by a double row of header bricks and plain tympanums. Several of the original 2/2 sash survive. The sills are wood. The elaborate Queen Anne-style decorative brick doorway hood shows the progressively recessed and "notched" brick patterns so popular in stepped brick cornices at this time. Each doorway originally had a double-light doorway transom but no original doors remain. The houses sit on fairly high basements, lit by a double-light sash. Each doorway is reached by three or four concrete steps.

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	X architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	X social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian	
X 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by Isaac and Emanuel Ellinger, major East Baltimore real estate developers and builders, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$500 to \$600.

The Ellingers purchased the two blocks bounded by Oliver and Lanvale Streets, Ann and Wolfe Streets in 1889, immediately sold the Wolfe St. frontage to builder Daniel Donnelly and then leased out the main street lots to three different local builders. Samuel B. Derr built twelve two-story, 13'3"-wide houses on the east side of Ann St.; Henry Brack put up ten two-story, 13'6"-wide houses on the north side of Oliver St.; and Walter Sewell built fourteen two-story, 13'6"-wide houses on the south side of Federal St., all in 1890. Houses began to sell in 1891 to mainly German-American owner-occupants. The Ellingers then built the Durham St. houses in the fall of 1891, sold seven to Bohemian owner-occupants as well as investors, and then the remaining twenty-one to Henry Brack who sold the houses to a mix of other investors and more Bohemian owner-occupants. One of the buyers, Frank Vomastek, a tailor, received his mortgage from the Bohemian Permanent Building and Savings Society, "Slovanstro"; another, Matej Opalecky, also a tailor, was financed by the St. Wenceslaus Building Association #1.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> BCLR, JB 1366/220; JB 1368/168; JB 1398/390; JB 1425/137

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



N. BROADWAY

E. LAFAYETTE

1906 City Atlas

1500-1526 N. Durham St.

BALTO - MD

B-4689

AV

ST.

E. LANVALE

LANSING AVE

E. FEDERAL

CRYSTAL AVE.

E. OLIVER

HOFFMAN PL.

SASH FACTORY

NAIL & RIVET FACTORY

BALTIMORE CITY

WATER DEPT.

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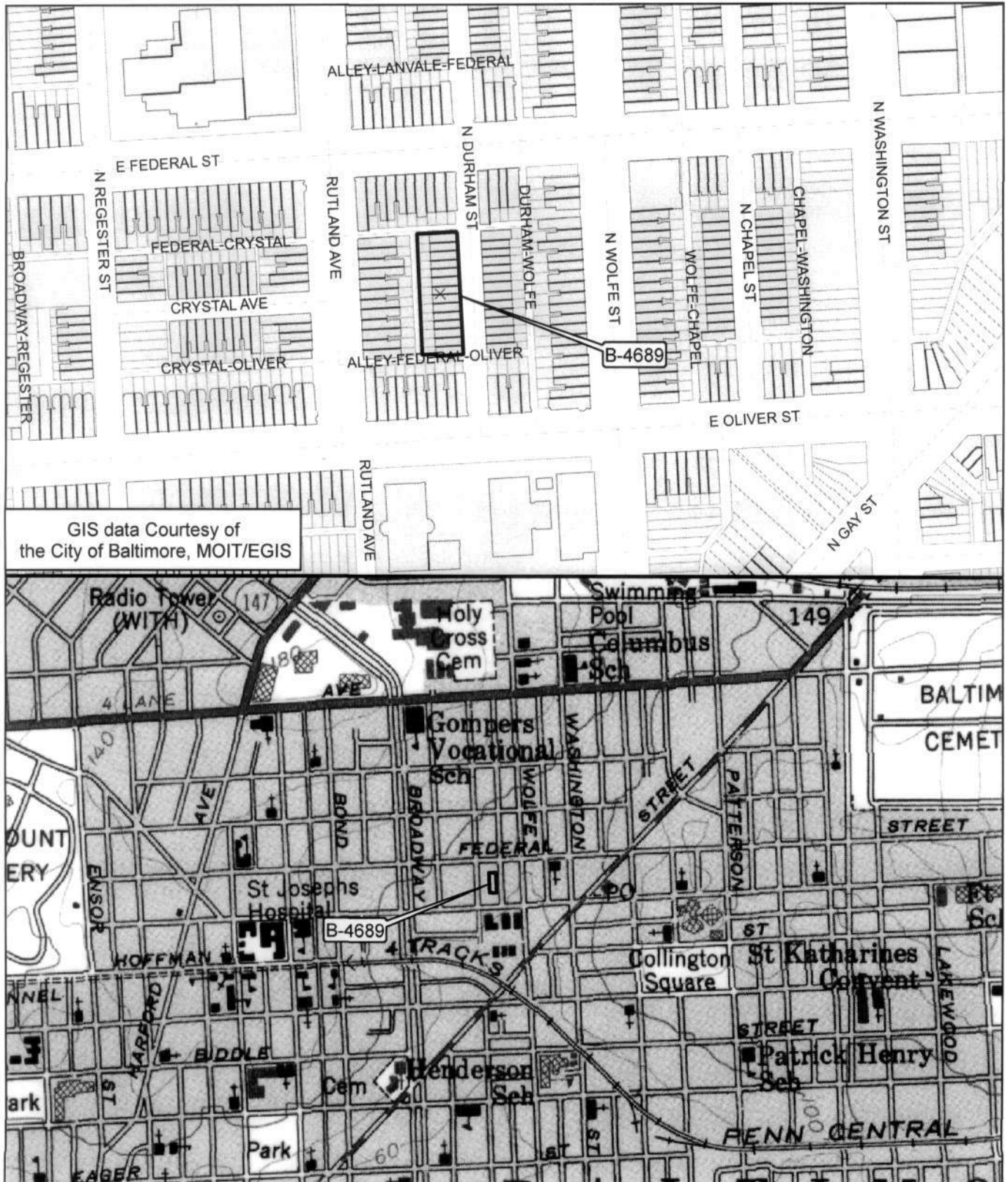
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B-4689  
1500-1526 N. Durham Street  
Block 1478, Lots 078-091  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





1500-1526

Durham

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B-4689

1500-1526 N. Durham St.

BALTO. MD

S. Allan

6/47

MB SAPD

1/2





1506 Durham ?  
63

B-4689  
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S. A. Allen  
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